

ABSTRACT

An orthodontic bracket having a body (e.g., made of a ceramic material) including a lingual surface for attachment to a tooth and defining an archwire slot, and a clip movable between an open position permitting access to the archwire slot and a closed  
5 position inhibiting access to the archwire slot. In one aspect, the clip has a material thickness that is non-uniform. In another aspect, the clip comprises at least two different materials. In yet another aspect, the bracket includes an insert coupled to the body and at least partially defining the archwire slot, and a recess formed in the archwire slot (e.g., to limit movement of a free end of a labial portion of the clip). In still another aspect, the  
10 bracket includes a gingival-occlusal insert coupled to the body and at least partially defining a gingival-occlusal opening, and at least a portion of the clip is positioned in the gingival-occlusal opening. In another aspect, a first side of the insert is longer than a second side in the labial-lingual direction. In yet another aspect, the body includes at least one tie wing having a labial side, a lingual side, and a gingival/occlusal side. The clip  
15 includes a labial portion positioned on the labial side of the tie wing, a lingual portion positioned on the lingual side of the tie wing, and a connecting portion positioned on the gingival-occlusal side of the tie wing when the clip is in the closed position. The labial portion has a mesio-distal first width, and the lingual portion has a mesio-distal second width less than the first width. In another aspect of the invention, the body includes a  
20 gingival-occlusal opening having a lingual surface, and at least a portion of the insert is spaced from the lingual surface to define at least part of a labial surface of the opening.